



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY

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**VIRGINIA APPRENTICESHIP OFFICIALS HOST CHINESE
LABOR DELEGATION**

Richmond - On December 17, the Virginia Department of Labor and Industry hosted a delegation from the Chinese Ministry of Labor and Social Security and related agencies to share information on Virginia's registered apprenticeship program.

The delegation was comprised of 16 Chinese worker training and apprenticeship representatives. During a two-hour meeting, Virginia Labor and Industry Commissioner C. Ray Davenport and Apprenticeship Program staff discussed apprenticeship and management of worker training in the Commonwealth, how Virginia's registered apprenticeship program helps employers train their employees, incentives, and the benefits of apprenticeship.

Registered apprenticeship is a proven training strategy that combines on-the-job training with related classroom instruction to prepare highly skilled workers in a wide range of trades and occupations in hundreds of industries.

Apprenticeship, by virtue of its success in preparing skilled workers, contributes to Virginia's and the nation's economic development and sustained economic growth. On a personal level, it teaches lifelong trades and job skills that allow workers to improve their financial security.

"We appreciate the opportunity to discuss our mutual apprenticeship and worker training interests with our counterparts in China," stated Commissioner Davenport. "It demonstrates that ensuring a highly skilled, quality work force is clearly a global priority."

The visit was coordinated by Vincent International Culture Exchange, a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting cultural relations between China and the United States. The Chinese agencies represented included several provincial offices of the Ministry of Labor and Social Security; Worker's Training and Employment Bureau; the Workers' Training School; Human Resource and Training Department of the Ministry of Water Resource Management; Bureau of Employee Management, State Council of PRC; the State License Management Committee; China Bill Manufacturing Company; and the Bureau of Transportation.

The Virginia Voluntary Apprenticeship Program was established in 1938. Apprenticeship training is used in more than 300 occupations in Virginia. There are currently over 10,000 registered apprentices employed by more than 2,000 employers throughout the Commonwealth. Additional information on apprenticeship can be obtained by visiting the Department of Labor and Industry's Web site at www.doli.state.va.us.

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